

Serial No. 09/957,008

Attorney Docket No.: 2001-0134.02

**REMARKS**

Applicants have now had an opportunity to carefully consider the Examiner's comments set forth in the Office Action of April 29, 2008. Claims 4, 16, 26-27 and 31-37 remain pending with and are believed to be in proper condition for allowance. Review and reconsideration of the claims are respectfully requested.

New claims 38-42 have been added. Applicants respectfully submit that new claims 38-42 are fully supported by the application as originally filed. Support for new claims 38-42 may be found, among other locations, in Fig.3; and page 4, line 19 through page 5, line 15. No new matter is believed to have been introduced.

Applicants amend claim 26 to better clarify Applicants' invention.

Applicants appreciate the Examiner finding the 4, 16-18 and 31-36 as allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 USC 112, first paragraph, and claims 26-27 and 37 as being allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejections under 35 USC 112, first and second paragraphs.

***Rejection of claims 4, 16-18, 26-27 and 31-37 under 35 USC 112, first paragraph***

Claims 4, 16-18, 26-27 and 31-37 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Specifically, it is contended that the selecting recited in claims 4, 16 and 26 is not described in the specification in such a way to reasonably convey to one skilled in the art that the inventors, at the time the application was filed. In response, Applicants respectfully submit the following.

Claim 4 recites selecting between the decoded signal and data pertaining to the device and generating a selection output signal based upon the selection; and claim 16 recites a selector

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selecting one of the decoded output signal and data pertaining to the peripheral device. In support for the recited selecting/selector limitation, there is shown in Fig. 3 a multiplexer 30 which receives as one input the output of pattern generator 26, which generates words based upon input packet offset (page 4, line 32 through page 5, line 2). As shown in Fig. 3, a second input of multiplexer 30 is external comparison values, which are described in the specification as being values specific to the receiving node, such as the node's network address or protocol state (page 5, lines 6-10). Also shown in Fig. 3 are the multiplexer select signal(s) which are generated by mask generator 28 and determine and/or select whether multiplexer 30 passes the output of pattern generator 26 or the external comparison values (page 5, lines 5-7). As a result, multiplexer 30 selects for its output between a decoded signal corresponding to input packet offset (pattern generator 26 output) and data pertaining to the device (external comparison values); and selects a decoded output signal corresponding to input packet offset and data pertaining to the peripheral device. Based upon the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that the invention of claims 4 and 16 are described in the specification to meet the requirements under 35 USC 112, first paragraph.

Claim 26 recites a selector selecting one of the first decoded signal, information pertaining to the peripheral device and outgoing payload data. In support for the selector limitation, Applicants point to Fig. 5, where there is shown a packet generator including a pattern generator 44 which is described in the specification as performing the same function as pattern generator 26 (page 6, line 33-34); a mask generator 50, which creates multiplexer select signals (Fig. 5 and page 7, lines 4-6); and multiplexer 46 which is described in the specification as performing the same function as multiplexer 30 (page 6, line 33 through page 7, line 1) and receives at its inputs for selection the output of pattern generator 44, protocol parameters relating

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to the device and the payload word (Fig. 5). Based upon the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that the invention of claim 26 is sufficiently described in the original patent application to meet the requirements under 35 USC 112, first paragraph.

***Rejection of claims 26, 27 and 37 under 35 USC 112, second paragraph***

Claims 26, 27 and 37 stand rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being incomplete for omitting essential steps, such omissions amounting to a gap between steps. In particular, it is contended that the comparison step for indicating the validity of the data packets, as claimed in claims 4 and 16, is missing from claim 26. In response to the rejection, Applicants submit the following.

Claim 26 recites, among other features, a packet generator for generating response data packets based on pertinent information in received data packets. Applicants respectfully submit that a packet generator, such as packet generator 14 described in the specification, does not perform a comparison operation of the type performed by maskable comparator 32 in hardware filter 12. See Fig. 5. Based upon the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submits that the rejection of claims 26, 27 and 37 under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, has been overcome.

***Conclusion***


Applicants respectfully submit that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants believe that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this

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application, the Examiner is invited to telephone or email the undersigned at the numbers provided.

Respectfully submitted,


  
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William F. Esser  
Reg. 38,053

Lexmark International, Inc.  
740 West New Circle Road  
Lexington, KY 40550  
T: (859)232-3668  
F: (859)232-7850

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I hereby certify that this Amendment is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage for first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450, or being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO at 571-273-8300, on the date indicated below.

\_\_\_\_ William F. Esser \_\_\_\_\_  
Depositor's Name

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

Date: \_\_\_\_ July 29, 2008 \_\_\_\_\_